



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA 2003 CROP PRODUCTION ABOVE YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., September 11, 2003 -**Corn** production in Nebraska based on conditions as of September 1 is forecast at 1.05 billion bushels, 1 percent above the August forecast, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized the production will be 11 percent more than the crop of 2002, but 8 percent below two years ago. Acreage to be harvested for grain, at 7.65 million acres, was unchanged from August and 4 percent larger than last year. Average yield is forecast at 137 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the August forecast, 9 bushels above last year, but 10 bushels below the record high 2001 crop. Dryland yields are best in the Northeastern counties but disappointing across the south and west. The 2003 combined irrigated/dryland ear population is the highest of record.

Soybean production on Nebraska farms is forecast at 181 million bushels the second highest of record, 5 percent below last month, 3 percent above last year but still 19 percent below the record set in 2001. Acres for harvest at 4.65 million are 2 percent above last year but 5 percent below the high set in 2001. Yield is forecast at 39 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from August but just above the 38.5 bushels of 2002.

Sorghum production on Nebraska farms is forecast at 27 million bushels, down 13 percent from the August forecast but still 80 percent above last year. Acres for harvest at 510,000 were unchanged from the August forecast and up 70 percent from 2002. Yield is forecast at 53 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from the previous month but 3 bushels higher than a year earlier.

Sugarbeet production of 907 thousand tons is up 19 percent from 2002. Yield at 20.7 tons per acre is the highest in 13 years.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bb/2003/crop0903.pdf>